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Magnificent courthouse to open soon in Basrah

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BASRAH, Iraq— Today's judicial process can trace its roots to Iraq's Code of Hammurabi created in 1760 B.C.

Soon Iraqis will open a new 11,000-square-meter two-story courthouse and witness protection facility in Basrah providing visual proof that the rule of law is once again a fundamental pillar of this nation.

"When completed, the new judicial facility will serve more than two million residents," said Keith Addams with the Gulf Region Division. The courthouse is approximately 94 percent finished and the annex 99 percent complete. "It's a magnificent structure built by local Iraqis who tell me they're very proud to be part of this effort. As I drive around to different job sites in Basrah and I see the dome of the new courthouse off in the distance, I can't help but think of its impressive monumental impact on the people here," Addams continued. "As the rule of law reduces the power of selfish men, the economical and agricultural capacities of Iraq will blossom. I honestly believe that all this, and so much more, is possible, through creating, enforcing and obeying fair and just law."

Laith Abdul Sammad, chief of the Basrah Supreme Judiciary Council, said the Iraqi Ministry of Justice is very satisfied. "Everything is good. It's a critical step in helping make Iraq a safer place for all who want peace and justice," he said.

The Gulf Region Division, which has renovated three other courthouses in Basrah

Province, is in the process of constructing another courthouse in the Shatt Al-Arab area. "These projects are seen as a very positive thing, especially since they enhance the southern region of Iraq's capabilities to bring justice here," Addams said.



Basrah Regional CourthouseDSC_9702: Basrah Regional Courthouse is one of the biggest GRS projects and is expected to serve more than two million residents in Basrah Province. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)



Basrah Regional CourthouseDSC_9764: Iraqi local workers prepare to install the irrigation system at the Basrah Regional Courthouse. The project has employed about 350 Iraqi local workers and helped the local economy to grow. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)



Basrah Regional CourthouseDSC_9747: Interior view of the Basrah Regional Courthouse. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)



Basrah Regional Courthouse DSC_9756: Basrah Regional Courthouse is one of 29 active projects the Basrah Area Office is overseeing to improve essential services in the province. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)

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